REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

By this amendment, Claims 2, 3, and 15 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer because Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate features originally recited in Claims 2 and 3, and Claim 14 has been amended to incorporate features originally recited in Claim 15.

The methods recited in Claims 1-27 have all been amended to more clearly recite a proxy method. The remaining current amendments to the claims are editorial in nature, to either recite the claimed features more precisely (Claims 7, 17, and 28-33) or to more clearly recite the intended alternative implementations (Claims 5, 16, 21, and 22). None of the present amendments are intended to introduce new subject matter.

Claims 1, 4-14, and 16-36 remain pending for examination. Favorable consideration thereof is respectfully requested.

The Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The rejection of Claims 1-36 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Jardin (U.S. Patent No. 6,681,327; hereafter "Jardin") in view of Ranger, *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,393,568; hereafter "Ranger") has been maintained. In view of the present amendments to the claims, the Applicant respectfully maintains its traversal of this rejection, and further maintains its requests that this rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Independent Claims 1, 14, 28, 31, and 33 have been amended to more clearly recite a proxy method, system having a proxy, or a proxy that include testing performed relative to decrypted (Claims 1, 28, and 33) or unencrypted (Claims 14 and 31) data. Such features are not taught or suggested by Jardin in Ranger, either singularly or in combination as asserted in the rejection.

More particularly, with regard to the independent claims, it is acknowledged in the rejection that: "Jardin does not disclose performing a test relative to the decrypted data..." (regarding **Claim 1**); "Jardin does not disclose performing a test relative to the unencrypted data..." (regarding **Claim 14**); "Jardin does not disclose wherein the data is transmitted in response to performing a test relative to the decrypted data..." (regarding **Claim 28**); "Jardin does not disclose wherein the data is transmitted in response to performing a test relative to the unencrypted data..." (regarding **Claim 31**); and "Jardin does not disclose performing a test relative to the decrypted data..." (regarding **Claim 33**).

Ranger is not sufficient to compensate for the deficiencies of Jardin because Ranger does not describe <u>a proxy method, system having a proxy, or a proxy</u> that include testing performed relative to decrypted or unencrypted data, as presently claimed. More particularly, Ranger describes a machine-based system and fails to teach or suggest how such system could be network-based, as are the pending claims.

Thus, by failing to describe proxy-based methods and systems, as presently claimed, the proposed combination of Jardin and Ranger fail to facilitate secure communication between, *e.g.,* a client and server. More significantly, by Ranger's failure to teach or suggest a network-based system, one of ordinary skill would have no motivation to combine the references, as asserted in the rejection.

Therefore, for at least the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully requested that the outstanding rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Conclusion

The remaining references of record have been studied. It is respectfully submitted that they do not compensate for the deficiencies of the references cited to reject Claims 1-36.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Early and forthright issuance of a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
MICROSOFT CORPORATION

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